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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 27 of draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1, the General Assembly would urge the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to make all necessary resources available for the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate and in particular to provide him with adequate staff based in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to ensure effective continuous monitoring of the human rights situation there and coordination with other United Nations bodies involved, including the United Nations Protection Force; under paragraph 28, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to give all other necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to fulfil his mandate.

B. Relationship of the request to the proposed programme of work

2. The above request is related to major programme VII, Human rights, fundamental freedoms and humanitarian affairs, programme 35, Promotion and protection of human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 1/ Related activities are reflected under subprogramme 1, Implementation of international instruments and procedures, of section 21, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. It may recalled that at its first special session in August 1992, the Commission for Human Rights requested its Chairman to appoint a special rapporteur 3/ to investigate first-hand the human rights situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in particular within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to receive relevant and credible information on the human rights situation there from Governments, individuals and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on a continuing basis, and to avail himself or herself of the assistance of existing mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. To assist the Special Rapporteur, five posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 3 P-3) were redeployed to the Centre in 1992 specifically to assist him in carrying out his mission. In addition, temporary assistance and operational resources relating to travel, transportation and equipment were also made available to assist the Special Rapporteur.

4. These resources have also been utilized to respond to subsequent legislative decisions, namely Economic and Social Council decisions 1993/255 and 1993/256.

5. During 1993 the Special Rapporteur conducted four trips to Geneva for consultations and the introduction of his report to the Commission on Human Rights, and three fact-finding missions to the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Field activities in the region have also been undertaken by the Centre for Human Rights, which has in Zagreb three staff members financed from extrabudgetary resources. It is anticipated that the Special Rapporteur will continue to receive the level of support which he received during 1992 and 1993.

6. Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1, the Secretary-General would be urged, within existing resources, to provide the Special Rapporteur with adequate staff based in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to ensure effective, continuous monitoring of the human rights situation there and coordination with other United Nations bodies involved, including the United Nations Protection Force. This would require the provision to the Centre for Human Rights in 1994 of additional temporary assistance funds in the total amount of $697,800 to cover the services of six P-3 field officers and four locally recruited General Service staff. The field officers would provide the Special Rapporteur with information which would allow him to fully assess the human rights situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and to take prompt action. In addition, operational resources for travel and equipment would be required.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1994-1995

7. The activities called for by the draft resolution would fall under paragraph 1 (a) (i) of subprogramme 1 of section 21, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Accordingly, no modifications would be required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

8. The implementation of the request contained in operative paragraph 27 of draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1 would require a total additional provision of $740,300, as follows:

	Thousands of United States dollars
(a) Temporary assistance	
Six P-3 for 12 work-months in 1994	661.8
Four locally recruited secretary-translators (General Service) for 12 work-months in 1994	36.0
	697.8
(b) Non-post	
Travel of field officers after recruitment and back (Geneva-Belgrade)	13.0
Travel of field officers in the territory of the former Yugoslavia	15.0
Office equipment	14.5
	42.5
Total (a) and (b)	740.3

F. Potential for absorption

9. No specific provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 under section 21, Human rights, to cover the estimated additional requirements of $740,300 related to the provision of staff to be based in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Consequently, it would not be possible to give effect to this request within existing resources under the regular budget of the United Nations. Efforts will be made to secure voluntary resources for that purpose.

10. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1, no additional appropriations would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

2/ A/48/6 (sect. 21).

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 2A (E/1992/22/Add.1/Rev.1), resolution 1992/S-1/1.